

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (canceled):

Claim 18 (original): A load distribution element to be mounted in a vehicle beneath at least one foot of an occupant of the vehicle the element comprising a plate, the plate having a first region of a predetermined strength and at least one further region of a greater strength, the region of greater strength comprising at least a first area to be located beneath a predetermined part of said one foot.

Claim 19. (original): An element according to Claim 18 wherein the said part of the foot is the heel of the foot.

Claim 20. (original): An element according to Claim 19 wherein said first area is dimensioned to be located beneath the heels of two feet of the occupant.

Claim 21. (currently amended): An element according to Claim 19 ~~or 20~~ wherein the further region incorporates a second area which extends adjacent one edge of the element to be located under one side of said one foot.

Claim 22. (currently amended) An element according to Claim 19 ~~or 20~~ wherein the further region incorporates two further areas which extend adjacent two opposite sides of the element to lie under side parts of said two feet.

Claim 23. (currently amended): An element according to Claim 18, ~~19, 20~~ wherein the

element is substantially rectangular and the further region incorporates one area which extends across the element which is spaced from said first area.

Claim 24. (currently amended): An element according to Claim 18 ~~any one of Claims 18 to 23~~ wherein the element includes at least one relatively weak area which has a strength which is less than said predetermined strength.

Claim 25. (currently amended): An element according to Claim ~~32~~ 24 ~~as dependant on Claim 21~~ wherein the relatively weak area is adjacent the second area to be located under the other side of said foot.

Claim 26. (currently amended): An element according to Claim ~~33~~ 24 ~~as dependant upon Claim 22~~ wherein there are two said relatively weak areas located respectively adjacent said two further areas to lie under the other side parts of said feet.

Claim 27. (currently amended): An element according to ~~any one of Claims 18 to 26~~ provided with padding to be located between the element and the floor of a vehicle.

Claim 28. (currently amended): An element according to ~~any one of Claims 18 to 26~~ provided with an inflatable air-bag to be located between the element and the floor of a vehicle.

Claim 29. (original): An element according to Claim 28 wherein the element forms part of the upper cover of a housing containing the air-bag.

Claim 30. (original): An element according to Claim 29 wherein the housing is a damp-proof sealed housing.

Claim 31. (currently amended) An element according to Claim 29 ~~or 30~~ wherein the element is connected to the rest of the upper cover by a hinge-line.

Claim 32. (new): An element according to Claim 21 wherein the element includes at least one relatively weak area which has a strength which is less than said predetermined strength.

Claim 33. (new): An element according to Claim 22 wherein the element includes at least one relatively weak area which has a strength which is less than said predetermined strength.